4/13/71

Mr. Richard Helms, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Langley, Va.

Dear Mr. Helms,

In your yesterday's speech before the American Society of Newspaper Editors you are quoted as having said that the CIA does not engage in any kind of spying or surveillance against Americans. I have no doubt you think you spoke the truth.

However, you did not, and of this there is no doubt, for I am in possession of the unquestionable evidence.

I am one of those against whom it was directed.

Because I believe you think you did speak truthfully, I think it is worse than if you had deliberately spoken falsely, for this would be a reflection of an intolerable internal autonomy.

Do not misunderstand me. I do not believe that in today's world foreign intelligence is anti-democratic. But I also believe that domestic intelligence by the agency of foreign intelligence is anti-democratic. Rather than being opposed to our country's institutions, I have, voluntarily, been part of it, in my younger day. I mean this in both official and unofficial senses, for as an investigative reporter I did produce valuable intelligence during World War II and delivered it to several government agencies. I was, in fact, what would today be called an "unregistered foreign agent", for I also worked with and supplied information to the intelligence service of a friendly foreign power.

However, the intelligence operation against me is of a different and I think wrongful character, least of all because I am a writer.

I am writing to ask that you comment a thorough investigation and then provide me with copies of all of it. If your subordinates tell you that what I say is not true, I am prepared to sue under 5 U.S.C. 552, where none of the exemptions could be invoked by your agency, and to produce in court copies of some of it. I would much prefer that it not get to that point, as I hope you would.

May I also suggest that if you are opposed to such things, what I ask of you gives you a chance to at least try to put an end to them?

I would also appreciate the full text of your remarks yesterday.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg